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**Modern World History**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall/winter 2008

Social Studies Elective

Teacher: Mr. Hugh Plouffe Phone: 31-789-0509 Ext. 819

Room: HS 301 E-mail: [hplouffe@kis.or.kr](mailto:hplouffe@kis.or.kr)

Subject Area: Social Studies Requirement Credits: 1.0

**Overview:**

This is a full year course surveying the events and forces that have shaped the modern world beginning with the Renaissance and terminating to roughly the present era. There are several themes within this broad range of history. They include the rise of the nation-state, conflict, the development of mercantilist trading systems, the rise of nationalism, political ideologies such as liberalism, social changes, war and the rise of internationalism and human rights.

As one can see there are a lot of themes within this broad range of history. Included in our studies, though, is how there exists a thread through history that links today to the past. As such, an important element of work in this class is to link historical themes with the present. Thus, current events will be part of our focus.

***Classroom Policies and Expectations:***

Be on time. Demonstrate respect. *Accept responsibility for your choices*. Come to class prepared which means have your books, materials, assignments (homework), and/or other materials as required throughout the course. Food, drink (except water), I-pods and mobile phones are not allowed within the classroom walls. If any of these items are brought to class they will be confiscated. Repeat offenders will receive consequences commensurate with their insistence on continuing with said practice. Participation in the class is also vital for the success in this class. If we work together as a team and we put forth our best efforts, this class has unlimited potential.

***Grades:***

The grading scale functions as stated below-

**A** *100-93%* ***A****- 92-90%* ***B****+ 89-87 %* ***B*** *86-83%* ***B****-**82-80%*

**C+***79-77%* ***C*** *76-73%* ***C-*** *72-70%*  ***D+*** *69-67%* ***D*** *66-60%*

***F*** *59 and below*

***Class Assessment Breakdown:***

Points will be calculated throughout the semester. Grades will be calculated on a weighted grading system as stated below:

# Essays - 20%

# Exams - 20%

# Projects & Quizzes - 30%

Final - 15%

Participation - 5%

Current events - 10%

**Total 100%**

***Attendance/Tardy Policy:***

You will be given 50 points for the semester for your Daily Participation Grade. Points will be taken away for unexcused absences (10 pts each), unexcused tardiness (5 pts each), and poor citizenship (defined by my discretion, 1-10 pts). Each student will be awarded one warning for being tardy during the semester. I will be going off of my computer as the official school time. **All of the computers in the school are synchronized for complete time and schedule accuracy. No excuses! As per school policy parents and administrators will be notified if tardiness becomes excessive.**

***Late Work:***

Assignments are due by the beginning of class--printed and stapled **before you enter class**--on the due date.  **Papers turned in within 24 hours after the due date will lose 10% of the grade.  Weekends count as 15%. After 30% is reached the assignment will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be given.**

***Behavior:***

All school rules apply within my classroom. Refer to the student handbook for school policies. Students who do not comply with the rules or who disrupt the educational process will face the following consequences: verbal warning, loss of daily participation points, contact parent, and/or referral to an administrator for appropriate action.

Make every effort to work cooperatively with fellow students, guest speakers, and **especially** any substitutes. You are expected to respect the personal property of others and all materials and equipment provided for your use by the school.

There is *zero tolerance* for any degrading, racial, sexist, or blasphemy type comments. As an international school we have students from all over the world thus different ideas about life. All students will feel safe within these classroom walls and I will not let hate of any kind be permitted. (Critical thinking and discussions about cultural beliefs, on the other hand, is not only allowed, but also encouraged. There is a big difference between disrespectful or abusive behavior and intellectual criticism of ideas.)

***Accommodations:***

Students with a variety of different learning styles should be able to find at least one aspect of the class in which they can succeed. There will be an attempt to educate with multiple types of learners in mind. For those with special needs, you will need to make an appointment with me for before or after school at least two days in advance. In addition, I am willing to work with certain students to use alternative ways of assessment if the need arises.

***Materials:***

The main text for this course is *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction* by Roger B. Beck et al. In addition for the current events component you should be looking at newspapers, magazines and the Internet for stories that you will be reporting on in class. Current events information will be included in tests.

***Missed Classes and Make-up Work:***

All school rules apply. Look on page 17-20 of *High School Parent/Student Handbook 2008-2009,* for more information. The one point that I would like to stress is that it is your responsibility to speak to me after missing a class. Failure to do so will result in loss of points on makeup work.

***Extra Credit Policy:***

No extra credit will be given in this class.

***Plagiarism/Cheating:***

There is no excuse for this type of behavior. If you are caught cheating (look *in High School Parent/Student Handbook 2008-2009,* pages 15-16 for details) I will follow the appropriate guidelines in reporting you offence. This is the best way to fail a class and will not be tolerated. It is strongly recommended that you look over your handbook with your parents before signing this syllabus and please ask questions if you don’t understand.

**Final Thoughts**

In closing I would like to say that this course though about the present still demands that a student comprehend how we have arrived at where we are. Thus it does have a historical element, albeit not as pronounced as, say, a course in history. Please, be cognizant of how today’s forces are the result of yesterday’s forces. As well, do consider that this is social studies in the final analysis and thus all elements of the social sciences and humanities are present within our examination of current issues.

\*This syllabus may be changed if the teacher sees fit. If there are any changes, parents and students will be notified before changes take effect.

# Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# This page is your first homework assignment and is worth 15 points. The due date is next class. There are two signatures needed; yours and a parent’s/guardian’s. Tear off the above pages and give the syllabus to your parents for their records and then return this sheet signed. If there are any questions about the course feel free to ask me after class or before school.

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Parent or Guardian Signature

###### Hugh Plouffe

Teacher Signature

##### Additional Comments to Teacher from Parent/Guardian (optional):

##### Name (Last, First): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_

##### Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

##### Western Name if Desired: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How do you get to school? If you take a school bus, which bus number do you take? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to a computer at home? Y or N

After School Schedule:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Tell me one thing you WANT me to know about you:

Tell me one thing you DON’T want me to know about you: